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**offset**

*noun*

Something to make up for loss or damage:

amends, compensation, indemnification, indemnity, quittance, recompense, redress, reimbursement, remuneration, reparation, repayment, requital, restitution, satisfaction, setoff.

See substitute.

*verb*

1. To act as an equalizing weight or force to:

balance, compensate, counteract, counterbalance, counterpoise, countervail, make up, set off.

See order.

2. To make up for:

balance, compensate, counterbalance, counterpoise, countervail, neutralize, outweigh, redeem, set off.

See substitute.

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**off·set** Listen: [ ôf'sĕt̬, ɔf'- ]

(Pronunciation Key)

*n.*

1. An agent, element, or thing that balances, counteracts, or compensates for something else.
2. One thing set off or developed from something else.
3. The start or initial stage; the outset.
4. *Architecture* A ledge or recess in a wall formed by a reduction in thickness above; a setoff.
5. *Botany* A shoot that develops laterally at the base of a plant, often rooting to form a new plant.
6. *Geology* A spur of a mountain range or hills.
7. A bend in a pipe, bar, or other straight continuous piece made to allow it to pass around an obstruction.
8. A short distance measured perpendicularly from the main line in surveying, used to help in calculating the area of an irregular plot.
9. A descendant of a race or family; an offshoot.
10. *Printing* **a.** An unintentional or faulty transfer of wet ink from a printed sheet to another surface in contact with it. Also called setoff. **b.** Offset printing.

*v.* **off·set**, **off·set·ting**, **off·sets** (ôf'sĕt̬, ɔf'-, ôf-sĕt̬, ɔf-)*v. tr.*

1. To counterbalance, counteract, or compensate for: *fringe benefits designed to offset low salaries*.
2. *Printing* **a.** To cause (printed matter) to transfer or smear onto another surface. **b.** To produce by offset printing.
3. To make or form an offset in (a wall, bar, or pipe).

*v. intr.*

1. To develop, project, or be situated as an offset.
2. *Printing* To become marked by or cause an unintentional transfer of ink.

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**offset<sup>1</sup> *adv.* & *adj.***

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